

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,
Energy Office

Date: April 6, 2004

Subject: Update

The following is the April 2004 monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

Supply Programs

- 1) Energetech: In a followup phone call with Senator Reed's Washington office, it was learned that the Senator's office did not forward the request for the Federal funding to the congressional appropriations committee as was indicated by the Providence office, due to lingering concerns about the early stage of permitting and outreach of the project. Senator Reed's Washington office staff expressed its support of the project and stated that they would submit the project for the 2006 appropriations cycle. Congressman Langevin's office did submit the request, and we will be following up with both offices to explain to them: why the developer needs funding prior to the 2006 budget cycle, why the project is likely or certain to be permitted (the developer is planning on undertaking a consultation process with CRMC, the lead permitting agency, prior to the application being filed which would give a strong indication of whether the permit is likely to be obtained), and the process for outreach to likely support and opposition groups.
- 2) URI Wind Project – The students have been given a date during May to present a more detailed project proposal to the Campus Master Plan Review Committee. Photosimulations of several locations both on the Bay and Main campus are being prepared, as well as a financial analysis for wind turbines ranging in size from 250 kW to 1000 kW (the larger size being proposed as an option for certain sites on the Main campus).
- 3) Johnson and Wales University Wind Project. – Kevin Shulte from SED is preparing his final report to JWU, which will include economic analysis of two options regarding interconnection with Narragansett Electric: feeding the campus behind the meter and selling to the grid at spot market rates.
- 4) Solar on Schools – A subcommittee is reviewing proposals received from Heliotronics/SolarWrights and CSG. Questions regarding the proposals have been submitted to the bidders for their responses.
- 5) PV RFP – Responses are due April 21, 2004. There have been quite a few expressions of interest, some in the 20 kW + range. A solar vendor has circulated a letter to Rhode Island schools outlining very compelling economics for 20 kW PV systems utilizing a \$7 per watt grant, but K-12 schools have been excluded from the RFP, because of the Solar on Schools program, which provides a much smaller (2 kW) system. The Burrillville School District has asked that the Fund revisit this exclusion.

- 6) High School Votech RFP: Chris Warfel will be sending an update to the Advisory Board under separate cover.
- 7) Providence Community Health Centers (PCHC) – The developer is asking for grant funding along the lines of that provided to South Providence Development Corporation for the Federated Lithographers Building site. The project is planned for completion in 2006. A description of the real estate development project is attached. (note: Details regarding the PV are not provided in the attached project description and will be provided in the April 13 meeting.)

Customer Demand Programs

Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation (RECA) RFP and Proposal to Large Customer Program – Think Energy has submitted a written update on the aggregation to purchase green power, and request for increased funding to Think to continue their assistance to RECA (attached.)

Bob Grace will update the Board at the April 13 meeting on the status of the proposal by the RECA aggregation to the Large Customer Incentive Program.

- 8) Small Customer Incentive Program – Registrations have been received from CSG and Community Energy, and will be presented at the April 13 meeting.
- 9) State House Green Power Purchase – The RFP for the purchase of green power for the State House is in final draft form and release is planned for April.
- 10) CRS Proposal for Green-e Support – From mid 2002 through the end of 2003, the Fund provided CRS with \$50,000 of support for its Green-e certification program. CRS is requested continued support in an attached proposal that will be discussed at the April 13 meeting.
- 11) GSA/EPA Large Customer Funding Request – The GSA and EPA have issued a joint RFP for RECs for 3 buildings in Rhode Island. They are requesting grant Funding from the Large Customer program. A proposal is attached for discussion at the April 13 meeting.

Outreach

- 12) Smartpower – An Update from Smartpower is attached. Smartpower hosted a highly successful “messaging Summit” on March 31. There was very good feedback on the event. Please check out the campaign website www.CleanEnergyRI.com through which purchases of clean energy (billed through Narragansett Electric) can be made.

Smartpower is working on developing the media campaign, details of which will be provided at the April 13 meeting.

- 13) Apeiron Sustainable Living Festival – A reminder of the Apeiron 2004 Rhode Island Sustainable Living Festival: Saturday, June 5th, 11am to 7pm. The 40 –plus workshops will include an alternative energy vehicle fleet and "Green" house tours. Tickets are: Individual \$20 advance, \$25 day of show & Family \$45 advance, \$55 day of show.
- 14) Think Energy – A survey has gone out to RECA members to gather feedback to be used in setting an agenda for a May workshop. Kurt Teichert and Vin Rose have been asked to

provide input for shaping the University Challenge component of Think Energy's work for the Fund.